

What is claimed is:

1. A null symbol detection device used for receivers for a digital broadcasting system which repeatedly transmits a null symbol with smaller transmission power 5 than those of other symbols during a fixed period, which has at least one transmission mode, where at least one of a null symbol repetition period and a null symbol width is different depending on at least one transmission mode, and in which the longer said null symbol repetition period 10 becomes, the wider said null symbol width becomes, said null symbol detection device comprising:

an amplitude detector operable for detecting an envelope of at least one of an intermediate frequency signal and a baseband signal;

15 a synchronous addition buffer group having at least one synchronous addition buffer for synchronously adding data obtained by sampling an output of said amplitude detector at a fixed sample period during said null symbol repetition period corresponding to said at least one of 20 transmission modes to be received;

a transmission mode determination processor operable for performing a moving average operation upon all synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition 25 buffer group, and for determining a transmission mode by

detecting, with respect to a transmission mode to be received, a minimum value of the moving average operation and an address of said at least one synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value; and

5 a null position detector operable for detecting, in accordance with a transmission mode determined in said transmission mode determination processor, a null symbol position from the address providing the minimum value of the moving average operation, and for generating a
10 synchronous pulse at a start point of the null symbol position.

2. A null symbol detection device according to claim
1, wherein

15 said transmission mode determination processor
includes:

 a moving average processing unit for performing a moving average operation in which, with respect to all of the synchronous addition data rows stored in at least one
20 synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition buffer group, an average value of adjacent m sampling values is calculated and the sampling point is successively moved, and for detecting the minimum value of the moving average operation and the address of said at least one
25 synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value for

the transmission mode to be received;

a correction processing unit for correcting the minimum value of the moving average operation for each of the transmission modes performed in said moving average processing unit in accordance with a synchronous addition number and a time width of the moving average operation;

5 and

a transmission mode determining unit for comparing corrected minimum values of the moving average operation for the respective transmission modes to determine the transmission mode to be received.

3. A null symbol detection device according to claim 2, wherein

15 the time width of the moving average operation in said moving average processing unit is equal to or less than the null symbol width of transmission mode having null symbol repetition period equal to a synchronous addition period of said at least one synchronous addition buffer.

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4. A null symbol detection device according to claim 2, wherein

in said synchronous addition buffer group, synchronous addition is performed for numbers predetermined 25 for each of said synchronous addition buffers, and a time

period required for the synchronous addition is equal to a time period of said buffers with different synchronous addition periods.

5 5. A null symbol detection device according to claim 2, wherein

 said correction processing unit normalizes the minimum value of the moving average operation calculated in said moving average processing unit by a value obtained by 10 multiplying the synchronous addition number by data corresponding to the time width of the moving average operation.

15 6. A null symbol detection device according to claim 2, wherein

 said transmission mode determining unit compares the minimum value of the moving average operation corresponding to each of the transmission modes corrected in said correction processing unit with a predetermined threshold, 20 and detects the minimum value among results of the moving average operation smaller than the predetermined threshold to determine a transmission mode, and when the minimum value smaller than the predetermined threshold is not provided, determines that a determination of the 25 transmission mode is impossible.

7. A null symbol detection device according to claim 1, wherein

5 said transmission mode determination processor includes:

10 a moving average processing unit for performing a moving average operation in which, with respect to all of the synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition buffer group, an average value of adjacent m sampling values is calculated and the sampling point is successively moved, and for detecting the minimum value of the moving average operation and the address of said at least one of synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value for the transmission mode to be received;

15 a threshold calculating unit for calculating thresholds for detecting a transmission mode by said synchronous addition data stored in said synchronous at least one addition buffer; and

20 a transmission mode determining unit for comparing the minimum value of the moving average operation calculated in said moving average processing unit with a threshold calculated in said threshold calculating unit to determine the transmission mode to be received.

8. A null symbol detection device according to claim
7, wherein

the time width of the moving average operation in
said moving average processing unit is equal to or less
5 than the null symbol width of a transmission mode having
null symbol repetition period equal to a synchronous
addition period of said at least one of synchronous
addition buffer.

10 9. A null symbol detection device according to claim
7, wherein

said synchronous addition buffer group performs the
synchronous addition for same synchronous addition numbers
regardless of the null symbol repetition period.

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10. A null symbol detection device according to
claim 7, wherein

said transmission mode determining unit detects all
of the transmission modes to be received and, when
20 detection of transmission mode cannot be performed
successfully, outputs a mode undefined message indicating
that the detection of the transmission mode to be received
is impossible.

25 11. A null symbol detection device according to

claim 2, wherein

the transmission mode to be received is in conformity with European Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) standard (ET300401).

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12. A null symbol detection device according to
claim 7, wherein

the transmission mode to be received is in conformity with European Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) standard
10 (ET300401).

13. A null symbol detection device according to
claim 11, wherein

15 said synchronous addition buffer group has three
buffers which perform synchronous addition with periods of
24 msec, 48 msec and 96 msec, respectively.

14. A null symbol detection device according to
claim 12, wherein

20 said synchronous addition buffer group has three
buffers which perform synchronous addition with periods of
24 msec, 48 msec and 96 msec, respectively.

25 15. A null symbol detection device according to
claim 11, wherein

in said synchronous addition buffer group, when a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 24 msec is 1, a sample period of synchronous addition data in the 5 synchronous addition buffer with a period of 48 msec is 2, and a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 96 msec is 4.

16. A null symbol detection device according to
10 claim 12, wherein

in said synchronous addition buffer group, when a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 24 msec is 1, a sample period of synchronous addition data in the 15 synchronous addition buffer with a period of 48 msec is 2, and a sample period of synchronous addition data in the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 96 msec is 4.

17. A null symbol detection device according to
20 claim 16, wherein

in said synchronous addition buffer group, by using data sampled in the same period regardless of the synchronous addition period, the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 96 msec synchronously adds average 25 values for four sample data, the synchronous addition

buffer with a period of 48 msec synchronously adds average values for two sample data, and the synchronous addition buffer with a period of 24 msec synchronously adds one sample data.

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18. A null symbol detection device according to claim 11, wherein

10 said moving average processing unit performs a moving average operation upon the number of samples corresponding to 0.5 τ to 1.0 τ in which τ indicates the null symbol width of the respective transmission modes.

19. A null symbol detection device according to claim 12, wherein

15 said moving average processing unit performs a moving average operation upon the number of samples corresponding to 0.5 τ to 1.0 τ in which τ indicates the null symbol width of the respective transmission modes.

20 20. A null symbol detection device used for receivers for a digital broadcasting system which repeatedly transmits a null symbol with smaller transmission power than those of other symbols during a fixed period, which has at least one transmission mode, 25 where at least one of a null symbol repetition period and a

null symbol width is different depending on at least one transmission mode, and in which the longer said null symbol repetition period becomes, the wider said null symbol width becomes, said null symbol detection device comprising:

- 5 an amplitude detector operable for detecting an envelope of at least one of an intermediate frequency signal and a baseband signal;
- 10 a synchronous addition buffer group having at least one synchronous addition buffer for synchronously adding data obtained by sampling an output of said amplitude detector at a fixed sample period during said null symbol repetition period corresponding to said at least one of transmission modes to be received;
- 15 a transmission mode determination processor operable for performing a moving average operation upon all synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition buffer group, and for determining a transmission mode by detecting, with respect to a transmission mode to be received, a minimum value of the moving average operation and an address of said at least one synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value; and
- 20 a null position detector operable for detecting, in accordance with a transmission mode determined in said transmission mode determination processor, a null symbol

position from the address providing the minimum value of the moving average operation, and for generating a synchronous pulse at a start point of the null symbol position,

5 said transmission mode determination processor includes:

 a moving average processing unit for performing a moving average operation in which, with respect to all of the synchronous addition data rows stored in at least one 10 synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition buffer group, an average value of adjacent m sampling values is calculated and the sampling point is successively moved, and for detecting the minimum value of the moving average operation and the address of said at least one 15 synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value for the transmission mode to be received;

 a correction processing unit for correcting the minimum value of the moving average operation for each of the transmission modes performed in said moving average 20 processing unit in accordance with a synchronous addition number and a time width of the moving average operation; and

 a transmission mode determining unit for comparing corrected minimum values of the moving average operation 25 for the respective transmission modes to determine the

transmission mode to be received.

21. A null symbol detection device used for
receivers for a digital broadcasting system which
5 repeatedly transmits a null symbol with smaller
transmission power than those of other symbols during a
fixed period, which has at least one transmission mode,
where at least one of a null symbol repetition period and a
null symbol width is different depending on at least one
10 transmission mode, and in which the longer said null symbol
repetition period becomes, the wider said null symbol width
becomes, said null symbol detection device comprising:
an amplitude detector operable for detecting an
envelope of at least one of an intermediate frequency
15 signal and a baseband signal;
a synchronous addition buffer group having at least
one synchronous addition buffer for synchronously adding
data obtained by sampling an output of said amplitude
detector at a fixed sample period during said null symbol
20 repetition period corresponding to said at least one of
transmission modes to be received;
a transmission mode determination processor operable
for performing moving average operation upon all
synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one
25 of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition

buffer group, and for determining a transmission mode by detecting, with respect to a transmission mode to be received, a minimum value of the moving average operation and an address of said at least one synchronous addition 5 buffer providing the minimum value; and

a null position detector operable for detecting, in accordance with a transmission mode determined in said transmission mode determination processor, a null symbol position from the address providing the minimum value of 10 the moving average operation, and for generating a synchronous pulse at a start point of the null symbol position.

15 said transmission mode determination processor includes:
15 a moving average processing unit for performing a moving average operation in which, with respect to all of the synchronous addition data rows stored in said at least one of synchronous addition buffer of said synchronous addition buffer group, an average value of adjacent m 20 sampling values is calculated and the sampling point is successively moved, and for detecting the minimum value of the moving average operation and the address of said at least one of synchronous addition buffer providing the minimum value for the transmission mode to be received;
25 a threshold calculating unit for calculating

thresholds for detecting a transmission mode by said synchronous addition data stored in said synchronous at least one addition buffer; and

a transmission mode determining unit for comparing

- 5 the minimum value of the moving average operation calculated in said moving average processing unit with a threshold calculated in said threshold calculating unit to determine the transmission mode to be received.